

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 174789
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174789

FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU, EA FOR MR. HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD,

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

1. QUOTE SOME PROGRESS END QUOTE IN THE MTN (CONFIDENTIAL)

OUT OF CONCERN OVER THE HITHERTO LACK OF MOVEMENT IN US-RP MTN NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN WEIGHING THE APPROPRIATENESS OF A POSSIBLE EMBASSY MANILA DEMARCHE TO MARCOS OR (IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UPCOMING ASEAN MINISTERIAL) TO ROMULO ON THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE US ATTACHES TO THESE TALKS (WHICH HAVE PROGRESSED WITH ALL OF THE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES), AND THE NEED FOR THE GOP TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN ITS OFFERS IF OUR BILATERAL IS TO SUCCEED. BEFORE MAKING A RECOMMENDATION, HOWEVER, WE AWAITED THE OUTCOME OF THE LATEST ROUND OF US-RP NEGOTIATIONS ON JULY 6 IN GENEVA. CONSIDERING THE FRENETIC ATMOSPHERE IN GENEVA AS JULY 15 APPROACHES, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT A CABLED SUMMARY OF THOSE TALKS HAS NOT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 174789

BEEN RECEIVED. HOWEVER, STR TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH STEVE LANDE (STR) AND MARK BAAS (EB) ON THE U.S. DELEGATION HAVE ELICITED THE NEWS THAT WHILE THERE WAS NOT A GREAT DEAL TO REPORT, SOME (TO US AS YET UNCLEAR DEGREE OF) PROGRESS WAS MADE. BOTH OFFICERS RECOMMENDED AGAINST THE ADVISIBILITY OF A FORMAL HIGH LEVEL APPROACH TO THE GOP AT THIS TIME (UNDERLINE AT THIS TIME). THE TIMING FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF

NEGOTIATIONS HAS STILL TO BE SET. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS CAREFULLY.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE AND ERLAND HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF GOP DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE VALDEPENAS' PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF LAST WEEK TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FINALLY RESOLVE THE COCONUT OIL AND PLYWOOD ISSUES NOT BE LOST FOR THE LACK OF ADEQUATE GOP CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE MTN.

2. F.L.'S PEREGRINATIONS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

MRS. MARCOS IS NOW EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK AT 8:15 P.M., FOLLOWING A DELAY DUE TO PLANE TROUBLES. SECURITY IS STILL LAID ON, SINCE AMB. ROMUALDEZ HAS NOT ASKED THAT WE WAIVE IT. YOUR PROJECTED PHONE CALL TO MRS. MARCOS AT THE WALDORF MAY ELICIT FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO WHAT SHE WISHES TO DO DURING HER TWO WEEK STAY.

3. NEW YORK INCIDENT (CONFIDENTIAL)

YANGO GAVE JIM LEONARD A DRAFT MEMO TO BE SIGNED BY BOTH WHICH DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT AS SEEN BY THE INVOLVED FILIPINOS AND THE POLICE. THE DRAFT, WHILE NOTING THE INCIDENT BEGAN WITH A SCUFFLE OUTSIDE THE BUILDING AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 174789

CITING THE POLICE'S STATEMENT THAT THEY DID NOT USE EXCESSIVE FORCE, IS GENERALLY CRITICAL IN TONE AND INCLUDES AN ITEM, QUOTE THE INCIDENT WAS NOT PROPERLY HANDLED IN SOME RESPECTS BY THE POLICE. END QUOTE. FURTHER, YANGO'S DRAFT ENDS WITH THE HOPE QUOTE THIS SUMMARY OF THE TESTIMONIES AND OUR FINDINGS AND CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES IN BEING ABLE TO AGREE ON SUCH FURTHER MEASURES THAT MAY BE WARRANTED SO THAT IN THE END THE MATTER COULD BE CONSIDERED CLOSED. END QUOTE.

OUR UN MISSION HAS RETURNED TO YANGO (A) A REDRAFT OF HIS MEMO, PUTTING THE INCIDENT INTO BETTER FOCUS AND (B) A MORE GENERALIZED MEMO, ADDING WE WOULD PREFER THE LATTER. BOTH OUR DRAFTS WOULD BRING THE MATTER TO CLOSE WITHOUT QUOTE FURTHER MEASURES END QUOTE. WE ARE NOW AWAITING YANGO'S REACTION. CHRISTOPHER

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